

Vol. 40, No. 3 'Courteous Vigilance' March/April 2006



#### **Proclamation Signing**

Surrounded by several current members of the Department, including DPS Director Roger Vanderpool, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano prepares to sign a proclamation designating the first week of this upcoming July as the official Arizona Highway Patrol/Department of Public Safety 75th Anniversary Week. Napolitano signed the proclamation March 16th in the old Capitol building in Phoenix in front of a large crowd that consisted of media representatives, DPS retirees, current employees and various other supporters of the agency. See story on page 7.

## Director announces high-level transfers and promotions at DPS

Several senior commanders at DPS will begin retiring from the agency this summer after lengthy, successful law enforcement careers and their departures are expected to send ripple effects throughout the agency through the loss of decades of knowledge, skill, and wisdom.

DPS Director Roger Vanderpool recently took several major steps towards better preparing the agency for the upcoming departure of many of these current leaders at DPS by announcing a large series of high-level transfers and promotions at the agency.

These transfers and promotions, which Vanderpool announced March 22, will go into effect quickly so that some of the newly promoted employees will have the opportunity to "shadow" and be mentored by the leaders they will soon be replacing (A commentary from Vanderpool about these promotions can be viewed in his Vantage Point on page 2).

The transfers and promotions announced by Vanderpool came shortly after the agency's lengthy and competitive Commanders process concluded in early March.

The top ten individuals in the Commanders process, listed in qualifying order, are lieutenants Brian Wilcox, Debra Howard, Larry Scarber, James McGuffin, Thomas Woodward, Iven Wooten, Dennis Young, Thomas Lane, Michael Lockhart, and Roque Quijada.

The top seven employees in that list were slated for immediate

advancement as part of Vanderpool's recently announced transfer and promotion plan.

The remaining individuals on the new Commander's list are expected to be promoted in the near future due to the steady stream of retirements expected within this agency's Commander ranks through 2008.

The transfers and promotions announced by Vanderpool on March 22, which were expected to be effective on April 15, are listed below. There will be further announcements as additional transfers or promotions are required.

#### **Existing commander transfers**

Existing Commander Bobby Halliday transfers to the Intelligence Bureau, CID

Existing Commander Gary Hughes transfers to Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau, HPD

Existing Commander David Denlinger transfers to Narcotics & Organized Crime Bureau, CID

Existing Commander Dan Wells transfers to Gang Enforcement Bureau, CID

#### **Promotions to commander**

Lt. Brian Wilcox promotes to Commander/assigned to Director's Office, Government Liaison

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

# From Director Roger L. Vanderpool's Vantage Point



As I neared the first-year anniversary of my appointment as Director of DPS in March, I became very proud of the accomplishments of DPS employees during some of the most challenging times for our agency. I am compiling highlights of these achievements to share with the Governor's office, the legislature

and the public so that we can celebrate your commitment to our public safety mission.

We are rapidly changing to meet the demands of the public we serve. The future of DPS is dependent upon how we adapt to these changes and prepare for our future, especially with the impact of DROP and the related loss of decades of knowledge, skill and wisdom.

I have been very pleased with the recent selection processes for lieutenant and commander. We asked for assistance from a cross-section of DPS personnel, commanders from other law enforcement agencies, and even members of the business community in selecting the next generation of DPS leadership.

The need to keep pace with demands for new supervisors requires that we begin the next selection process for sergeant as soon as possible. You will hear more about this in the near future.

In the past, when employees retired, the department was required to pay-off accumulated vacation, sick leave or comp time before filling the vacated position. This process could take weeks or months.

To minimize the loss of institutional and job-specific knowledge, I am making transfers and promoting command-level personnel prior to the actual departure of several of our senior commanders this summer. The opportunity for newly promoted commanders to "shadow" and be mentored by these knowledgeable individuals before they retire will soon pay dividends.

The article on the front page of this issue of *The Digest* contains the list of employees involved in the various transfers and promotions that will be effective April 15.

Keep in mind that the overlaps involving these personnel will vary by position depending on the timing of retirements or other needs.

Congratulations to all of the soon-to-be promoted employees. We look forward to a bright future as we continue to strive to be the best law enforcement agency in Arizona.

# —— For the record ——— Resist desire to keep trophies

(The following article appeared in the most recent Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board newsletter)

In times past it was not uncommon to see memorabilia from a large or interesting bust or search warrant displayed in the office of one of the involved officers. Frequently these items were taken from the scene without any thought about who might own them. Examples that the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST) has seen include medallions of a particular saint that drug runners carried to protect them, a stop watch, odd or unusual guns, gang symbols, and cheap metal art pieces of a skull and cross bones design. An officer might rationalize that they were abandoned property, not valuable, worthless or contraband. AZPOST decisions make it clear that taking mementos is unacceptable and unprofessional conduct and it may be criminal as well.

A.R.S. 13-1802(A)(4) provides that if a person comes into control of lost or mislaid property under circumstances providing means of inquiry as to the true owner and takes the property without reasonable efforts to notify the true owner, that person has committed theft. Any property under the control of a peace officer needs to be handled properly, in compliance with the law and the department policies on seized or found property. AZPOST takes the position that submitting found property in accordance with policy is a means of inquiry as to the true owner. Policies usually have a time period within which the true owner can claim the property before it is considered abandoned. If there are not other more reasonable means of inquiring as to the true owner's identity, submission of found property in accordance with department policy is adequate.

If an officer possesses a "trophy" obtained after fully complying with department policies concerning found property, there would not likely be a AZPOST issue. However, AZPOST views taking anything that does not belong to you and using it for your own purposes to be misconduct that usually calls for disciplinary action.

### Dispatchers recognized in April

Employees at DPS celebrated National Dispatchers Week during the week of April 9 by attending open houses held at two of the agency's three communications centers. A presentation about dispatching and a tour of each communications center was offered to those who stopped by. DPS Director Roger Vanderpool formally thanked all of the Department's dispatch employees during the week for their excellence and hard work. "The citizens of Arizona depend on the skills of our dispatchers to save lives and it is very fitting to have a week where we honor them exclusively," Vanderpool said.

The Digest is published monthly by the DPS Community Outreach and Education Program for DPS employees and retirees.

Employees are invited to submit story ideas or stories for publication. Stories or story ideas may be submitted to *The Digest* by mail (mail drop 3350), EMS or Telephone (602-223-2545).

Roger L. Vanderpool, Director Jim Jertson, Publications Support Specialist, jjertson@azdps.gov Kellen Chavez, State Service Intern, kchavez@azdps.gov

The Digest can be accessed directly from the DPS World Wide Web home page at http://www.azdps.gov/digest.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety is an Equal Employment Opportunity Agency.



#### Working a peaceful march

DPS provided a substantial amount of personnel and assets to various locations in Phoenix during an immigration related march on April 10. The event, the largest of its kind in state history, featured about 100,000 marchers and was free of violence.

### **DPS** at a Glance

During the month of January, DPS investigated a stunning 8,566 motor vehicle crashes. Careful analysis of causative factors revealed that driver inattention was the main factor in 52 percent of the collisions. Another significant cause was excessive speed, which was a factor in 39 percent of the collisions.

\*\*\*

DPS Criminal Intelligence Analyst Supervisor Ritchie Martinez was recently named the 2005 recipient of the Society of Certified Criminal Analysts Lifetime Achievement Award (SCCA) for professional contributions to the field of criminal intelligence analysis over his career.

\*\*\*

DPS Officer Pedro Pena was recognized as the DPS Officer of the Year for the Globe area at a dinner on Feb. 25. The local Elks Club sponsored the event.

\*\*\*

DPS is in the process of being awarded, through Racketeering Influence Crime Organization (RICO) funds, a large office building in the upscale Scottsdale Airpark business district. The 14,000 square foot building, which is complete with office furniture

and equipment, will house Highway Patrol and Criminal Investigations employees. The anticipated award date of the \$1.4 million property is sometime in May.

\*\*\*

The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge in Flagstaff recently named Officer Robert Nowlan as its DPS Officer of the Year. Nowlan, a 4-year DPS veteran, is assigned to the Highway Patrol in Flagstaff.

\*\*\*

DPS Roadside Motorist Assistant Roger Rodriguez of Yuma recently won a red 1972 Chevrolet Corvette convertible at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Midnight at the Oasis car show. Rodriguez's ticket was picked out of hundreds. A few months before winning the car, Roger's wife, Linda, won an all-expenses-paid weekend trip to anywhere in the U.S.

\*\*\*

DPS partnered with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to purchase and install a DPS networked Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system at ADOT's Freeway Operations Center in Phoenix. The addition of the CAD to the ADOT facility will allow ADOT to keep apprised of all incidents DPS has dispatched as soon as they occur.

\*\*\*

The 11th Annual Law Enforcement Golf Tournament for Special Olympics, sponsored in part by the AHPA and hosted by DPS in

# DPS helped keep the largest march/rally in state history safe

A enormous crowd of more than 100,000 people marched and rallied April 10<sup>th</sup> in Phoenix in support of legalization for millions of undocumented immigrants.

It was the largest march/rally in state history and several law enforcement agencies in Arizona, including DPS, placed virtually all of their sworn personnel on tactical alert to address any issues that could have surfaced at the event.

The large crowd began gathering at the state fairgrounds across from the DPS head-quarters building in the morning and started their march to the state Capitol at 1 p.m.

DPS provided a substantial amount of its law enforcement manpower and resources to the state fairgrounds and the State Capitol, as well as other select locations, in an attempt to keep the demonstration as safe as possible.

DPS also readied its specially trained Civil Emergency Task Force officers and made them available for immediate deploy-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 11** 

Tucson, is scheduled for May 6. The donations to Arizona Special Olympics resulting from this event have now exceeded \$100,000.

For more info about this event please contact Rocky Quijada at (520) 349-6351.

\*\*\*

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Mark Biver of Phoenix and personnel from DPS' Community Outreach and Education Program (CORE) recently worked a special assignment on March 25 at Firebird Raceway. The detail, which was titled "Drivers Edge", was directed at newly licensed teens and their parents. More than 300 participants attended the event which included behind the wheel anti-lock brake training, hydroplaning exercises and basic, hands-on lessons on vehicle maintenance. The event, which was split into two sessions, also addressed other important traffic safety issues facing teens such as DUI awareness.

#### Cop Swap

1999 Infiniti G20 4-door sedan in excellent condition, always garaged, looks and drives great. 2.0L/140hp 4-cyl. automatic, FWD, only 82K, 24 mpg, sand beige, 100W 6-spkr Bose audio (CD and cassette), power everything, alloy wheels, good tires, AZ car, original owner. Every possible option including full leather interior, woodgrain finish, glass power sunroof with wind deflector, auto climate control. Rear seats fold 60/40 for cargo including through to trunk. All records; serviced exclusively by Infiniti and Goodyear. \$7,990. Eric Landau, 480-837-8200.



**MONICA AVILES** 



**DRUSCILLA BOTTOMS** 



PHILANA DUPREY-RICARD



CHRISTINA HERNANDEZ



KIM KARBON-SINES



**CHUCK LEBLANC** 



LEIGH LEBLANC



CHRIS RAMSEY



ANA VELARDE



**VICKI WATKINS** 

### Eleven civilian employees promoted during ceremony

Eleven civilian employees at DPS received promotions from DPS Director Roger Vanderpool during ceremonies March 13 at state DPS headquarters in Phoenix.

The civilians, who were promoted to various positions within the agency, are Monica Aviles, Druscilla Bottoms, Philana Duprey-Ricard, Christina Hernandez, Kim Karbon-Sines, Chuck Leblanc, Leigh Leblanc, Chris Ramsey, Ana Velarde, Vicki Watkins, and Rene Wilson.

#### **MONICA AVILES**

Monica began her career with DPS as a State Intern for the Public Records Unit over two years ago. Monica is now being promoted to Criminal Records Specialist in the Department's Records Section.

Monica was born and raised in Phoenix and is a full-time student at Phoenix College.

#### DRUSCILLA BOTTOMS

Dru began her career with DPS as a Police Communications Dispatcher in January 1993. She promoted to Senior Dispatcher in April 1996. In 1998, Dru promoted to ACJIS Compliance Instructor in the Access Integrity Unit.

Dru became an Administrative Services Officer in Research and Planning in July 2001 and transferred to Aviation in December 2002. She is being promoted to Administrative Supervisor, Finance, Agency Support Division.

Dru was awarded Aviation Employee of the Year in 2003.

Dru was born in Orlando, Florida and raised in Wickenburg, Arizona. She married John Bottoms and they have four children; Seth, 18, Alex, 14, Johnny, 6, and Reagan, 3.

#### PHILANA DUPREY-RICARD

Philana began her career with DPS as a Dispatcher in 1978. In 1988 she promoted to RMIN Intelligence Unit Supervisor and in 1990, Philana became the Criminal Intelligence Research Unit Supervisor.

In 1994, she promoted to Intelligence District Administrator. In

1995 Philana worked as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst for the Intelligence District and transferred to GITEM in 2000. Philana is now being promoted to Criminal Intelligence Supervisor.

Philana received the DEA award for service in February 1991, the Director's Unit Citation in June 1993 and the Governor's Recognition Award in October 1994.

In addition, she received the United States Marshall's award for service in



**RENE WILSON** 

January 1995 and a Phoenix Police Department award for service in February 1997.

Philana was born in Illinois and she has been married to Tom Riherd for 5 years.

#### **CHRISTINA HERNANDEZ**

Christina was hired by DPS in June of 1996 as an Identification Clerk in Criminal History Records on the graveyard shift. She was there about a year. Christina then transferred to the Department's Records Section where she remained for almost 9 years. Christina was promoted to Administrative Assistant for the Information Technology Bureau in January of 2006.

Christina was born and raised in Phoenix. She has one daughter, Virginia Oglesby, who is 15 years old.

#### KIM KARBON-SINES

Kim began her career with DPS as a Police Communications Dispatcher in 1986. She soon promoted to Senior Dispatcher. In 1992, Kim transferred to Property and Evidence. In 2000, she was promoted to Records Supervisor in the Criminal History Division. Kim is now being promoted to Administrative Supervisor in the Licensing Unit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## DPS' recent Firearms Instructors In-Service Training a success

by DPS Det. Pat Dugan Agency Firearms Instructor

DPS Firearms Instructors from around the state recently gathered once again at the Seven Mile Range near Kingman for the 2006 Firearms Instructor In-service training.

The annual event, which draws nearly 100 instructors on average each year, was viewed by many as being one of the best yet.

This year's training, which took place over the course of three days in March, included a fascinating daylong presentation by Mr. Kenneth R. Murray.

Murray is the author of *Training at the Speed of Life*, a highly informative text on military and law enforcement reality based training.

Mr. Murray is also one of the original inventors of Simunitions, a reality based training product line currently in use by DPS.

Instructors also received a full day of range time at this year's training in order to develop and practice the tactical handgun courses that will be used as part of this year's firearms training program for all sworn officers at DPS.

Firearms instructors from DPS have been making an annual trek to Kingman for this special training since 1997.

The Firearms Training Unit developed the unique program to gather all of the firearms instructors within DPS at one central location in order to conduct one session of "train-the-trainer" instruction.

The program eventually evolved into two separate sessions to allow for minimal disruption of Department operations.

Firearms instructors at DPS must attend one of the sessions in Kingman to remain in current status.



Since its inception, this program has helped to standardize the firearms training program for all sworn and specialty officers at DPS.

It has also allowed firearms instructors to share ideas for effective reality based training scenarios and tactical handgun/shotgun courses.

The Seven Mile Hill Shooting Range near Kingman is the ideal place to host this training because it has the facilities to accommodate a large number of instructors.

The range also has several bays available and simultaneous training rotations can occur with a high degree of safety.

All of the attendees work very hard to make every element of the training a success, especially the safety element.

The instructors, whether they are assigned to the Highway Patrol Division or the Criminal Investigations Division, are all extremely professional when they attend the training.

They share many training ideas as they relate to the high liability aspects of firearms use, less lethal technology, and officer/small team tactics.

The instructors spend a tremendous amount of time on the range at the training and the days are sometimes very long. However, the camaraderie and ability to share ideas make the long hours pay off.

There will always be a need for good firearms instruction and training.

The annual in-service program provides many tangible benefits described in this article, and many more intangible benefits. Firearms' training certainly saves many lives and is one of the most valuable aspects of police training.

If you are interested in becoming a firearms instructor for the Department, more information can be obtained by contacting your area firearms instructor or the DPS Firearms Training Unit in Phoenix at extension 2308.

### Duckett still making life difficult for drug runners in Tucson area

A lengthy article was published in the December/January issue of *The Digest* detailing DPS Highway Patrol Officer Keith Duckett's remarkable 30-day stretch of intercepting large loads of marijuana along Interstate 10.

The article explained how Duckett and his drug-sniffing dog had managed to seize a stunning 6,457 pounds of marijuana during six unrelated traffic stops along Interstate 10 during a period that began Nov. 7 and ended Dec. 6.

The stops marked some of the largest unrelated marijuana seizures ever made by a single highway patrol officer at DPS within such a short period of time.

Well, it appears that Duckett's remarkable stretch of making life extremely difficult for drug runners has not yet come to an end.

At around 8 a.m. on March 9, Duckett was patrolling State Route 86 just west of Tucson when he stopped a large pickup truck, which was pulling a horse trailer, for a traffic violation.

As he approached the vehicle, he observed several large bales of marijuana stacked around a horse traveling inside of the vehicle's trailer.

Duckett, who is assigned to the Tucsonarea, arrested the vehicle's driver and seized the marijuana which, upon final count, weighed a whopping 2,560 pounds.

Only two weeks after seizing this large load of marijuana from the horse trailer, Duckett had a much easier bust after stopping at a Walgreens store near Tucson to purchase a few work supplies.

After purchasing his items, Duckett returned to his patrol car and let his drug-sniffing dog, Rico, leave the vehicle for a short break. While walking around the Walgreens and taking in some fresh air, Rico alerted on a van parked on the edge of the store's parking lot.

A search of the vehicle revealed 515 pounds of marijuana which was subsequently seized by Duckett.

Judging from his recent busts, it appears

that Duckett is still on quite a roll. Unfortunately for drug runners, there have been no signs that Duckett's remarkable run will end anytime soon.













JAIME ESCOBEDO

MANUEL GALVEZ

MIKE HARDT G

DRAN JEFF WILLIAMSON

### Escobedo promoted to leiutenant; four others elevated to sergeant

DPS Director Roger Vanderpool elevated one sergeant at DPS to the rank of lieutenant and four officers at DPS to the rank of sergeant during a promotional ceremony at state DPS headquarters in Phoenix.

Elevated to lieutenant during the March 13 ceremony was Jaime Escobedo. Elevated to sergeant was Manuel Galvez, Mike Hardt, Gene Moran, and Jeff Williamson.

#### JAIME ESCOBEDO

Escobedo was promoted to lieutenant and will be assigned as the District Commander of the Highway Patrol Division's Metro West Swing Shift.

Escobedo began his career with DPS in June 1986 and was assigned to the Highway Patrol District Six in Casa Grande. In August 1986 he transferred to Coolidge.

In 1992 Escobedo was assigned to the Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy as a Class Officer supervising a MVD Specialty Officer class. He was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to Criminal Investigations in Yuma, Southwest Border Alliance, in 1992. In December 1994 Escobedo transferred to the Highway Patrol in Payson. In October 1995 he transferred back to Criminal Investigations as the Commander of the Gila County Narcotics Task Force.

Escobedo received two Officer of the Year Awards; one from the Coolidge Elks Lodge in 1990 and the other from the Northern Operations Bureau in 1997. In addition, he was recognized by the Governor for his CI squad's efforts in the investigation and eradication of almost 111,000 marijuana plants.

Escobedo was born and raised in Mesa, Arizona. He has been married to his wife, Bertha, for twenty-one years. He has two daughters, Gina and Andrea, and two sons, Raymond and Vincent. In addition, Escobedo has three grandchildren; Matthew, age four, Jayce, age one, and Allison Torres who is one and a half.

#### **MANUELGALVEZ**

Galvez, who was promoted to sergeant during the ceremony, began his career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety as a Cadet Officer in 1999. Upon graduating from ALEA on June 18, 1999, he was assigned to District Six, Kearny/Oracle. On July 14, 2001, Galvez transferred to Metro East. He became a Metro East CETF Team Member, a Field Training Instructor, and served as an Advanced Basic advisor. In addition, Galvez is a General Instructor, and a High Risk vehicle stop instructor. He is now being promoted to Sergeant.

Galvez assisted with the Special Olympics in District Six and also received a DUC award while in District Six.

Galvez was born and raised in Yuma, Arizona. He has been married to his wife, Gina, for 6 years. They have two boys, Matthew, age 4, and Jayce who is age 1. In addition, Galvez and Gina are expecting twin girls in June. Galvez has an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Law Enforcement, Rio Salado College.

#### **MIKEHARDT**

Hardt, who was promoted to sergeant during the ceremony, began his career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety in 1990 and was assigned to the Highway Patrol in Camp Verde until 1995. In 1995, Hardt transferred to the K-9 Unit. Hardt transferred to the Criminal Investigation Division Special Enforcement Bureau K-9 Unit in 1997. In 1999, Hardt transferred to the Criminal Investigation Division Prescott Area Narcotics Task Force. In 2002, Hardt transferred to the Criminal Investigation Division Northern Investigation District.

Hardt was awarded the Director's Unit Citation in 1991, 2000 and 2004. In addition, he received Officer of the Year in 1997 from both the Northern Operation Bureau and Elks Lodge. In 1998 and 1999, Hardt was awarded Officer of the Year.

Hardt was born and raised in Phoenix. He has been married to his wife, Marilyn, for fifteen years. They have three children, Phillip, 18, Amanda, 11, and Elizabeth 8.

#### **GENEMORAN**

Moran, who was promoted to sergeant during the ceremony, began his career in law

enforcement in 1992 as a reserve Patrol Officer with the Clarkdale Police Department. He became a full time Officer for Clarkdale in 1995. In addition, Moran served as a narcotics investigator with the Prescott Area Narcotics Task Force for a little over two years. In 1999, Moran began his career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Upon graduating from the Advanced Basic Academy, he was assigned to the Highway Patrol Division, District Twelve in Camp Verde where he worked until December 2001. Moran then transferred to the Cottonwood/Sedona squad within District Twelve.

Moran became a General Instructor in 2001 and a Field Training Instructor in 2002. In addition, Moran served as a Recruit Training Officer for ALEA class 378 and he was selected to serve as a member of the DPS Honor Guard in 2003.

In 2005 he received a Director's Unit Citation as a member of the DPS Honor Guard and served as a class advisor for a DPS Advanced Basic class.

Moran was born and raised in Arizona. He has been married to his wife, Sharon, for 20 years. They have two children, Brittany, age 19, and Patrick, age 17.

#### JEFF WILLIAMSON

Williamson, who was also promoted to sergeant during the ceremony, began his career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety as a Cadet Officer in April 1990.

Upon graduating from the academy, he was assigned to Yuma, Arizona. In 1994, Williamson worked for the K-9 Unit in Yuma. Williamson then transferred to the Gila Bend K-9 Unit in 1995 where he worked for three years.

In 1998, Williamson worked as a Gila Bend Highway Patrol Officer. In 2002, Williamson transferred to Metro West working the graveyard shift.

Williamson was born in Alexandria, Virginia, and raised in Florida. He has been married to his wife, Sandra, for twenty and a half years. They have two children, Sarah, age 11 and Sabrina, age 6.

# Governor helps kick off 75th anniversary events at Old Capitol

At a large, festive ceremony on March 16th in the old Arizona Capitol building in Phoenix, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano signed a proclamation designating the first week of this upcoming July as the official Arizona Highway Patrol/Department of Public Safety 75th Anniversary Week.

Napolitano's signing of the proclamation, which was witnessed by a large crowd consisting of media representatives, DPS retirees and current employees, marked one of the anniversary's biggest events to date and helped set an exciting tone for the rest of this year's celebration of 75 years of Arizona Highway Patrol/DPS service.

The proclamation signing, which also featured a speech by DPS Director Roger Vanderpool, was deliberately scheduled for March in the old Capitol building because that is where the original bill establishing the Arizona Highway Patrol was passed exactly 75 years earlier to the month.

The signed proclamation, which will soon be on display at DPS' headquarters building, designates the first week of this upcoming July as the official anniversary week because the Arizona Highway Patrol actually began operating 75 years ago on July 1.

After signing the proclamation, Napolitano gave a brief speech about the underlying values that have been carried forward throughout the storied history of the Arizona Highway Patrol and DPS.

"The look of the Arizona Highway Patrol has changed dramatically in its 75 years of existence, but its mission of saving lives and promoting true highway safety though courteous, firm, and fair enforcement of traffic laws remains the same," Napolitano said. "And that mission will continue thanks to the organization's foundation, the dedication of its many employees, and its adherence to the principle of Courteous Vigilance."

Following Napolitano's remarks, DPS Director Roger Vanderpool spoke to the crowd about the remarkable history of DPS and the Arizona Highway Patrol. He made special mention of the 14 officers who comprised the original Arizona Highway Patrol and he also spoke of the 27 Arizona Highway Patrol/Department of Public Safety Officers who died in the line of duty.

"These officers made the ultimate sacrifice during our organization's proud history and they will never be forgotten," Vanderpool said.

The Department's restored Model A pa-



#### Old Capitol celebration

In the photo collage above, onlookers watch as DPS Director Roger Vanderpool presents Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano with one of the small lapel pins that commemorates this year's 75th Anniversary of Arizona Highway Patrol/DPS service. Following the presentation, Napolitano signed a proclamation designating the first week of this upcoming July as the official Arizona Highway Patrol/Department of Public Safety 75th Anniversary Week. Meanwhile, DPS' restored Model A patrol vehicle sat proudly in front of the old Capitol.

trol vehicle, a representation of the exact vehicle used by the Arizona Highway Patrol during its first year of existence in 1931, was on display just outside of the old Capitol building before and after the signing event.

The vehicle attracted quite a bit of attention from members of the public and several people, including many DPS employees, had their photographs taken next to the vehicle as it sat outside of the old Capitol.

In addition to the proclamation signing on March 16th, another major anniversary activity that has taken place over the past several weeks has been the placement of the large 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary decals on all of the Department's marked patrol cars.

As of April 12, a majority of the agency's marked cars throughout the state had already received these highly visible decals featuring the 75th anniversary logo.

Another anniversary event that will take place soon will be the grand-opening of the special Arizona Highway Patrol historical display at the old Capitol building in Phoenix. This event has been scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the old Capitol building.

Several other events will also be approaching soon, including a large cookout and celebration commemorating the anniversary. This event has been scheduled for June 30th in the parking lot just north of the DPS headquarters building in Phoenix.

It should also be noted that in early

March, DPS' webmaster and staff from *The Digest* worked together to develop a section of DPS' website dedicated to this year's 75th Anniversary of AHP/DPS service.

This special section of the website, which can be accessed from DPS' homepage at <a href="www.azdps.gov">www.azdps.gov</a>, contains updated information about all aspects of the anniversary and even features photos from some of the anniversary's biggest events.

Employees interested in purchasing any of the merchandise commemorating the anniversary will be able to obtain current information on how to purchase such items from DPS' website within the next month.

The 75th AHP Anniversary Committee's merchandising efforts received an enormous financial boost during the past month when the Arizona Masonry group (Scottish Rite) confirmed it was going to sponsor the printing of the committee's history magazine. This generous financial support is no small thing because the organization will likely end up contributing about \$10,600.

When the history magazine is published with the help of the Arizona Masonry Group later this year, the illustrated publication summarizing the history of the AHP/DPS will be made available for purchase along with a variety of other collectable items.

Please visit DPS' website to obtain additional news about the 75th anniversary and related events.

# DPS involved in auto theft awareness event at the State Capitol

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano proclaimed Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> of 2006 as Vehicle Theft Prevention and Awareness Day.

This proclamation was preceded by the 2006 Auto Theft Prevention Day at the Arizona State Capitol on February 28th, 2006.

The event, which involved several DPS employees, was kicked off by opening remarks from Enrique Cantu, the Executive Director of the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA).

Opening remarks were also made by the late Arizona Senator Marilyn Jarrett, DPS Chief Mikel Longman, Yuma County Sheriff Ralph Ogden, and Ms. Pat Elliot of Allstate Insurance.

Speakers provided information on the role of AATA and thanked members of law enforcement, including auto theft detectives assigned to the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force, for their dedicated efforts to reduce auto theft in the state of Arizona and abroad.

Detectives from the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force, which is a multi-agency proactive enforcement district managed by the Arizona DPS, were on hand to assist the public, media, and state legislators with awareness campaigns.

Some of the vehicle theft awareness campaigns featured at the event were the Watch Your Car Program and the VIN Etching Program.

The highlight of the day was a presentation by the Allstate Auto Dismantling Team.

This three-man team of experienced auto body professionals deconstructed a 2003 Ford extended cab pick-up truck with common hand tools in less than 15 minutes.

The many Capitol attendees who observed the exciting demonstration learned how quickly a vehicle can be dismantled and "chopped."

During the performance the team removed the hood, bumpers, fenders, bed, doors, tailgate, wheels, and front and rear seats

After the demonstration the only thing left was the chassis, cab, and engine. According to Allstate, a vehicle chopped in such a manner can reap two to three times as much as the actual vehicle for criminals when sold part by part.

The event drew rave reviews from those in attendance and many attendees vowed to begin taking additional steps towards better protecting their automobiles from theft.



# Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force crushes motorcycle theft ring following large probe

On Tuesday, March 21, 2005, Detectives from the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force, which is administrated by the Arizona Department of Public Safety, served five search warrants at various locations across Maricopa County. The search warrants were developed after an extensive seven month investigation conducted by the Task Force into a major motorcycle theft ring and chop shop operation. The investigation was coined "Operation M. C. Hymer" after the two main suspects, a father and son team, Raymond Corey Hymer of Avondale, age 48, and Steven Ray Hymer, age 25.

The warrants were served at various locations throughout the Phoenix-area.

During the investigation and service of the warrants, detectives seized thirty-nine stolen motorcycles and components, four stolen trailers, tools and equipment, computers and documents used for facilitating the criminal operations and a multitude of motorcycles that had the vehicle identification numbers (VIN) ground off. Additional motorcycles were seized with re-stamped false VIN numbers. Most of the stolen motorcycles were high end; high performance sport-racing bikes which in addition to the other seized items had a total value of \$1 million for the recovered stolen property.

state legislators with a variety of

vehicle theft awareness cam-

paigns and programs.

Both of the Hymer's were arrested and booked into the Maricopa County Fourth Avenue Jail and charged with the following: Multiple counts of theft of means, Trafficking in stolen property, Conspiracy, and Operating a chop shop. Steven Hymer was additionally charged with being a prohibited possessor of a firearm.

Assisting in the service of warrants were members of the Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, Gang Enforcement Detectives, and Detectives from the General Investigations District. Detectives will continue this investigation and begin the process of notifying victims and attempting to identify seized vehicles with removed and/or altered VIN's.

#### Promotions ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Kim was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin.

#### CHUCK LEBLANC

Chuck began his career with DPS as an Evidence Custodian in 1985. In August 1988 he promoted to an Administrative Assistant's position in Fleet Administration. In 1991, Chuck transferred to the Comptroller's Office as a Grants Coordinator. He promoted to an Administrative Services Officer in August 1993. Two years and two months later Chuck transferred to the Highway Patrol Division as a Budget Coordinator. In May 1997, he was promoted to Administrative Supervisor assigned to the Finance Section as the General Accounting Supervisor. Chuck has now been promoted to Administrative Service Manager in Asset Forfeiture and Victim Services.

Chuck was born in Kittery, Maine and raised in Glendale. He has been married to his wife, Leigh, for ten years.

#### LEIGH LEBLANC

Leigh began her career with DPS as an Account Clerk in Finance working in Accounts Payable and Travel on August 14, 1988. She promoted to Administrative Assistant in October 1991 and was assigned to the Information Center in Data Processing. However, her position was reclassified in May 1993 to an Information Center Support Specialist. In 1995, Leigh promoted to Administrative Services Officer assigned to Grants Administration and over the next ten years she served as ASO, Budget Coordinator for the former Operations Division, Gang Intelligence Team Information Mission, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program and Licensing and Regulatory Bureau.

She is being promoted to Accounts Payable Administrative Supervisor in Finance, Agency Support Division.

Leigh is an active volunteer at the Childhelp USA Children's Center.

Leigh was born in Pontiac, Michigan and raised in Clawson, Michigan. She has been married to Chuck for 10 years.

#### **CHRIS RAMSEY**

Christopher was hired by DPS in July of 1994 as a Storekeeper at Fleet. He was there about a year. Christopher then transferred to the supply warehouse at the compound in 1995 for 2 years. Christopher was promoted to Administrative Assistant in 1997 and worked briefly in Security Guard Licensing before being transferred to the Sex Offender Compliance Unit where he worked for 7 years. He is now promoted to Records Su-

pervisor, Applicant Team One.

Christopher was awarded Employee of the Year in 1996. In addition, he has received the DUC award for the years 1995, 2000, and 2004.

Christopher was born and raised in Phoenix. He served 4 years in the Army as a Military Police Officer stationed in Korea. Christopher was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division and Fort Huachuca, AZ.

#### ANA VELARDE

Ana began her career with DPS as a Human Resources Analyst in July 2002. She promoted to Administrative Supervisor assigned to the Property and Evidence Unit in January of 2004. Ana has now promoted to Administrative Service Manager in the Safety and Loss Unit.

Ana was born and raised in Guadalajara, Jalisco Mexico and lived there until the age of 13. She then moved to Arizona. Ana has one daughter, Savanna Rose, who is 19 months old. Ana has an Associates Degree in General Studies from Scottsdale Community College, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from ASU, and a Master of Arts Degree in Human Resources Development from Ottawa University.

#### VICKI WATKINS

Vicki began her career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety in the Criminal History Records Unit on the nightshift in 1996. She moved to the Applicant Team in June, 1997. Vicki was promoted to Administrative Assistant in July 1999 to the Concealed Weapon Permit Unit. In April 2005 Vicki received a promotion to the Access Integrity Unit as an ACJIS Compliance Specialist. She is now being promoted to Administrative Service Officer in the Licensing and Regulatory Bureau.

Vicki was awarded an Employee Suggestion Certificate in 2002. She researched and presented several modifications to improve the productivity and security to the CCW program. In addition, she received a Recognition Award for DPS Applicant IAFIS Connectivity Project 2003.

Vicki was born in Illinois, and she moved to Arizona when she was 8. Vicki has been married to Jeff for three years and they have one child, Tristan, who is 13 months.

#### **RENE WILSON**

Rene began her career with DPS in July of 1985 as a dispatcher in Central Communications where she remained until 1994. Rene then promoted to an Intelligence Research Technician assigned to the Phoenix Criminal Investigations Research Unit. In 1996 Rene was promoted to ACJIS Compliance Specialist where she developed and implemented a new, state-wide audit program. In 1999 she was promoted to Records Supervisor and

assigned to the Applicant Clearance Card Team to develop and implement a newly mandated fingerprint clearance card program. She is now promoted to Administrative Supervisor in the Concealed Weapon Permit Unit.

Rene was awarded Fingerprint Identification Bureau Supervisor of the Year in 2000. In addition, she was recognized for her contributions to the DPS Applicant/IAFIS Connectivity Project in 2003 which developed and implemented electronic transmission of fingerprint data between Arizona and the FBI. Also, Rene received a Certificate of Academic Excellence in 2005 from Grand Canyon University.

Rene was born and raised in Geneva, Ohio and relocated to Phoenix in 1979. She received an Associate of Applied Science degree in Business Management Degree from Phoenix College in 2003. In addition, Rene has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Management from Grand Canyon University. She is completing a Master of Science degree in Leadership at Grand Canyon University.

# DPS team wants you to join them in battle against breast cancer

Several DPS employees and their family members have formed a team and will be participating as a group in the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk which raises money for breast cancer research.

This highly popular 60-mile walk, which begins November 3, will take place over three days in the Phoenix-area.

The DPS team has even come up with a name - "The Foot Patrol."

They are currently trying to recruit additional team members from within the DPS family to join them on this amazing journey to help breast cancer research.

Team members will be supported every "step" of the way and can train with the group or on their own.

If you are interested in joining "The Foot Patrol" or simply want more information on how you can support the team's cause, please contact DPS Intelligence Research Specialist Chris Thorsen at (602) 644-5945 or DPS Training Specialist Patt Ficere at (602) 223-2745.

It should be noted that you don't have to be a DPS employee to officially join "The Foot Patrol." General information about the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk can also be found on the event's official website at www.the3day.org.

#### Promotions ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- Lt. Debra Howard promotes to Commander/assigned to ASD, Training & Management Services Bureau
- Lt. Larry Scarber promotes to Commander/assigned to HPD, Southern Bureau
- Lt. James McGuffin promotes to Commander/assigned to CJSD, Chief of Staff
- Lt. Thomas Woodward promotes to Commander/assigned to HPD, Metro East Bureau
- Lt. Iven Wooten promotes to Commander/assigned to the Law Enforcement Merit System Council
- Lt. Dennis Young promotes to Commander/ assigned to HPD, Metro West Bureau

#### **Existing lieutenant transfers**

- Lt. Danny Golden transfers to ASD, Arizona Law Enforcement Academy (ALEA)
- Lt. Andy Vasquez transfers to CID, GITEM
- Lt. Jeff Stanhope transfers to the Director's Office. Internal Affairs
- Lt. Kelly Heape transfers to the Director's Office, Executive Officer
- Lt. Bruce Campbell transfers to HPD, West Valley Swings

#### **Promotions to lieutenant**

Sgt. John Philpot promotes to Lieuten-

ant; assigned to CID, SWAT

Sgt. Angel Leos promotes to Lieutenant; assigned to HPD, K-9 District

Sgt. Jenna Mitchell promotes to Lieutenant; assigned to ASD, Research and Planning

Sgt. Mark Remsey promotes to Lieutenant; assigned to HPD, East Valley Graveyard

Sgt. Jim Warriner promotes to Lieutenant; assigned to ASD, Human Resources

It should be noted that the overlaps involving these personnel will vary from position to position depending on the timing of retirements and the overall needs of the agency.

Those being promoted from the newly announced Commander's list endured a highly competitive and revamped process this year consisting of a resume, a staff study listing three significant issues facing the Department (with action plans), and a presentation to the Board.

This year's Board for the Commander's process consisted of Assistant Chief Sharon Allen, Tucson PD; Deputy Chief Steve Warner, MCSO; Mr. Bud Davidson, Board of Directors for the 100 Club; DPS Commander Bill McCance, and Director Vanderpool. Those competing in the process presented a number of great ideas for how to tackle significant issues facing the Department in their staff studies.



#### Inaugural law enforcement expo

DPS and the Phoenix Police Department co-hosted the first ever Southwest Regional Law Enforcement Expo on April 8th at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix. The event, which is pictured in the photos above, featured law enforcement recruiters from DPS and more than 29 other agencies in the Southwest. More than 2,000 people interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement attended the event and were able to complete applications on site while watching demonstrations such as Taser deployments and DPS SWAT team and aviation exercises.

# Please help complete our award records for 'Reserve of the Year'

In the last two issues of this publication, it was noted that *The Digest* has been unable to complete accurate, up-to-date lists of DPS employees, civilian and sworn, who have received well-earned recognition at DPS through the presentation of agency awards.

In an attempt to update its records, starting several months ago and continuing for the next few months, *The Digest* will continue publishing a list of recipients who have been recognized through major DPS awards.

Last month, *The Digest* published its list of those who have received the agency's Valor Award. It would be beneficial and much appreciated if the readers of this publication would continue reviewing the lists that are published each month and if they have any corrections, deletions or additions, please inform *The Digest*.

Below is the list, which is likely incomplete, of those who have been presented with DPS' Reserve Officer of the Year Award. 1969 through 1986

1987

Sgt. Mark M. Dryer

1988

Officer Thomas R. Ruddock

1989

Officer Steve J. Tritz

1990

Officer Michael J. Novotny

1991

Officer Marlys M. Cole

1992

Sgt. Jim L. Peterson

1993

Officer Frank F. Delaney

1994

Sgt. Mark M. Dryer Memorial Award

Officer Dennis M. Duffy

1995

Officer Suzy Hall

1996

Officer Frank Delaney

1997

Officer James W. Roethle

1998

Officer Frank Delaney

1999

Officer Jerry B. DeRose

2000 through 2001

2002

Officer Robert D. Gilbert

2003

Officer Richard W. Becker

2004

2005

Officer Thomas D. Goodman

#### **Inside DPS**

#### 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Palmer, Paul E., 342, Video Production Specialist

#### 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Brown, Raymond L., 1885, Officer

Dunn, Bernard C., 1882, Officer

#### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Angles, Ed H., 3004, Facilities Supervisor

Bratcher, Dennis D., Sergeant

Contreras, Michael A., Officer

Ellett, Steve R., 3009, Criminal Records Specialist

Gilberg, Mark D., 2988, Officer

Rasp, Harold A., 2979, Customer Information Center Supervisor

Reaves, Randal W., Officer

Reeves, Ronnie, 3021, Officer

Remsey, Mark J., 3022, Sergeant

Schmitz, Claudia F., 3001, Officer

Slowik, Sandra L., 2464, Sergeant

Wilkes, Carmen R., 3003, Administrative Secretary

#### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Hardy, Glenda K., 3805, Latent Print Examiner

Holbert, Suzanne D., 3804, Police Communications Supervisor

Karbon-Sines, Kim M., 3806, Administrative Supervisor

Munton, James H., 3800, Computer Network Operator

#### **NEW EMPLOYEES**

Agustin, Kris, 6583, Criminal Records Specialist

Aleks, Mary Jo, 6703, Human Resources Analyst

Benner, Michael C., 6677, Cadet Officer

Boyle, Danielle E., 6691, Criminal Records Specialist

Cottrell, Joel T., 6679, Cadet Officer

Cordsen, Joseph D., 6692, Officer

Daugherty, David S., 6693, Officer

Dockery, Lisa M., 6689, Computer Programmer Analyst

Fiser, Kristin A., 6690, Police Communications Dispatcher

Gutierrez, Mona Lisa T., 6700, Criminal Records Specialist

Hancock, Melissa C., 6676, Associate Criminalist

Hendrix, Robert G., 6702, Criminal Records Specialist

Holloway, Angela M., 6704, Human Resources Specialist

Hudson, Shane E., 6695, Officer

Hunt, Michael J., 6680, Cadet Officer

Lamb, Eric W., 6696, Officer

Moore, Loretta B., 6701, Criminal Records Specialist

Morris, William F., 6681, Rotary Wing Pilot

Perea, Max G., 6697, Officer

Pinamonti, Debra L., 6705, Administrative Assistant

Polanchak, Jennifer L., 6698, Officer

Read, Ross R., 6682, Cadet Officer

Rodriguez, Pedro, 6684, Cadet Officer

Rose, Jason, 6688, Aircraft Mechanic

Sanders, Jared D., 6685, Cadet Officer

Smith, Aron A., 6686, Cadet Officer

Smith, Derek C., 6687, Cadet Officer

Vinh, Mang, 6675, Personal Computer Specialist

Voelker, Daniel L., 6699, Officer

Waltermire, James A., 6694, Officer

#### **DEPARTURES**

Bradshaw, Eric A., 6678, Cadet Officer

Cecil, Damon M., 5197, Officer

Clements, Frank B., 5817, Security Officer

Dick, Ted W., 4137, Design and Construction Manager

Dyas, Rita C., 6128, Supervising Criminalist

Kelemecz, Jeff W., 3512, Applications System Analyst

Lane, Lori A., 6322, Office Coordinator

Miller, Mike E., 6611, Fingerprint Technician

Murray, Scott E., 6302, Fixed Wing Pilot

Rhoades, John R., 6683, Cadet Officer

Ryan, Jessie L., 5508, Administrative Services Officer

Stein, Michael D., 6408, Fixed Wing Pilot

Vega, Doraliz, 6301, Police Communications Dispatcher

Williams, David R., 6669, Cadet Officer

#### RETIREMENTS

Decarolis, Charles D., 4105, Officer

Gray, Mary E., 3617, Financial Services Specialist

Lawwill-Jereb, Deborah, 877, Fingerprint Technician

Sherlock, Lois A., 3333, Administrative Services Officer

Skiles, Michael A., 3548, Officer

Sutton, William B., 5125, Regional Crime Laboratory Manager

#### **BIRTHS**

Phoenix Motorcycle Officer Mike Beaudoin and Hetter Fuller welcomed their first son into the world on Feb. 14. Braydon William Fuller weighed in at 5 lbs., 14 oz. and measured 19 3/4 inches long.

District 8 DPS Officer Mike Hairgrove and his wife, Julie, welcomed their first child into the world on Feb. 28. Madison Hairgrove weighed in at 7.1 lbs. and measured 18.5 inches long.

DPS Police Communications Dispatcher Lea Echeverria and her family welcomed a new addition on March 15. John Phillip Echeverria weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. and measured 21.5 inches long.

District 9 DPS Officer Stewart Shupe and his wife, Wendy, welcomed their first son into the world on March 24. Ryker Stewart Shupe weighed in at 8.5 lbs and joins sisters Shelby, Tasia and Hallie.

District 4 Officer George Luna and his wife, Heather, welcomed a new addition into their family on March 31. Jordan Luna weighed in at 7 lbs and is 19.5 inches long. He joins two older twin sisters.

DPS Criminal Records Specialist Melanie Buck and her husband, Troy, welcomed a new addition into their family on April 1. Little Austin Buck weighed in at 6 lbs 2 oz. and was 19.75 inches long. He joins one older sister.

#### **OBITUARIES**

Ken Myers, father of DPS Lt. Dave Myers and DPS Call Taker Doug Myers, passed away March 25 in Phoenix.

Philip Rehil passed away March 23. He was a long-time DPS employee who retired from the agency in 1986.

Carolyn Gonzales, mother of retired DPS Sgt. Anita Schneider, passed away March 1.

#### Protest ...

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ment in the event that civil disorder or other emergencies should erupt at the demonstration. The Emergency Operations Center at DPS was also activated.

The Department, like several other law enforcement agencies in Arizona, began preparing for this large-scale event several weeks in advance and was highly pleased that it concluded with no violence and only mild confrontations between protesters, including some with strong anti-immigration views

DPS Commander Dave Denlinger said, "From DPS' view, everything ran very smoothly thanks to the planning and the dedication of those who worked the event."

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



P.O. Box 6638

Phoenix, AZ 85005

PRESORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID PHOENIX, AZ PERMIT NO 03948

### **Down the Highways**

#### March 1971

Russell Dunham, a DPS Highway Patrol officer, and Floyd Balliett, a Yuma County Sheriff's Office Deputy, were credited with the March 26 capture of an armed rape/kidnapping suspect near Yarnell Hill, southwest of Prescott.

The California man was being pursued by authorities after failing to pay for fuel at a Quartzsite gas station.

The pursuit reached speeds of more than 100 mph before the suspect's stolen vehicle blew a tire.

Some 30 officers, including DPS Officer Don Miller, participated in the chase of the 18-year-old man who was holding hostage a 20-year-old woman whom he had allegedly kidnapped and raped in California.

#### **April 1971**

Five DPS narcotics officers seized about 40 pounds of marijuana and arrested three persons who, agents said, had a small marijuana garden growing in the backyard of their Tucson home.

A DPS spokesman said officers confiscated the 15 marijuana plants during the April 22 raid.

#### **April 1976**

A Portland, Ore., man was charged in what state officials term the largest seizure of illegally obtained cactus in Arizona history.

DPS Officer Stephen H. Bias said he found the 357 small cactus plants concealed in a pickup truck he had stopped for speeding on Interstate 8 near Gila Bend. Bias said the bed of the truck appeared to be stacked

with wood, but the officer said he also noticed a sheet of tin under the top layer of the wood.

The seizure included 110 saguaros, ranging from four inches to three feet tall, 200 hedgehogs, 27 small barrel cactus plants, 11 prickly pears, seven pincushions and two chollas. The plants were believed to be taken from an area near Marana.

#### **March 1981**

On March 27, Highway Patrol Officers Ron Bruce and Mike Seykoski confiscated a suspected stolen Stradivarius violin from a suspicious-acting couple driving a 1970 Chevrolet Blazer.

The officers stopped the couple near the interchange of Interstates 8 and 10 for unsafe lane usage.

Attempts were made to locate the owner of the rare violin, made in 1713 by Antonius Stradivarius of Cremona, Italy. The violin, worth nearly \$500,000, eventually was given by an insurance company to a music conservatory in New York City.

#### **April 1986**

Julie Gresley, a DPS officer from Casa Grande, captured the overall women's honors during the ALETA-sponsored Survival of the Fittest competition April 12 in Tucson. Robert Marquez, a DPS cadet officer, took first in the men's 25 and under category.

Gresley completed her six events in 45 minutes, 37 seconds. Gresley had to bench press a total of 2,500 pounds, do 100 situps, run 2.3 miles on paved road, bicycle 1.5 miles, run .7 miles cross country, and swim 75 meters. Marquez completed the six events in

43 minutes, 10 seconds. The men were required to bench press a total of 5,000 pounds.

#### **March 1991**

Nineteen DPS employees have recently been called into active military duty to fight in the Persian Gulf war and they are being greatly supported by their co-workers at the Department.

Many civilian employees at DPS have begun wearing yellow ribbons on their clothing and officers have been granted permission by the director to attach yellow ribbons to their patrol vehicles.

DPS Director Rick Ayars noted that with so many employees stationed in the hostile Persian Gulf, it was appropriate to allow department employees to show their support in some way.

In addition, pictures of the DPS employees on active duty have been placed in the DPS headquarters building as part of display recognizing their military service in the Persian Gulf.

#### **April 1996**

A two-vehicle, head-on collision along U.S. 89, 21 miles north of Flagstaff claimed the lives of five people on April 9.

Sgt. Mark Hall said the mid-afternoon crash occurred when a compact car driven by Vicky Hosteen, 25, of Cameron, drifted across the centerline and struck a north-bound minivan carrying five tourists from Virginia.

Three passengers from Hosteen's vehicle were killed along with two from the other vehicle.